

REMARKS

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 2, 8, 9 and 14 have been amended. Claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 9 and 14 are pending and under consideration.

No new matter is being presented and approval of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 1, 2, 4, 8, 9 AND 14 FOR OBVIOUSNESS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER EZEKIEL ET AL. (U.S. PATENT NO. 5,625,783) IN VIEW OF MORCOS ET AL. (U.S. PATENT NO. 6,229,539)

The rejections of claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 9 and 14 are respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

On page 4 of the Action, the Examiner notes that Ezekiel et al. does not teach modifying a definition file by allowing a user to select one or more of said menu items being registered in a definition file to be suppressed, and indicating a suppress process to said one or more of said menu items. However, the Examiner cites Morcos et al. as disclosing this feature.

Morcos teaches customizing command bars by dragging a control from a list of available commands to the desired position in another command bar. When a control is dragged, a highlight appears in order to indicate where the control will be located once it is dropped. If the control is dropped on a menu popup, then it will be displayed with both a text string and icon. (See column 12, line 46, to column 13, line 22).

On the other hand, the present invention is characterized by modifying a definition file by allowing a user to select one or more of said menu items being registered in a definition file to be suppressed, and to indicate a suppress process to be performed on said one or more of said menu items, as recited in independent claim 1, for example.

That is, a user can modify a definition file by selecting one or more of said menu items being registered in a definition file to be suppressed. Moreover, the user can indicate a suppress process to be performed on said one or more of said menu items. (See page 16, line 25, to page 17, line 25, of the present Specification, and Figs. 3 and 5).

Independent claims 2, 8, 9 and 14 similarly recite modifying a definition file by allowing a user to select one or more of said menu items being registered in a definition file to be suppressed, and to indicate a suppress process to be performed on said one or more of said menu items. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted neither Ezekiel et al. nor Morcos et al. teach

or suggest the features of independent claims 1, 2, 8, 9 and 14.

Furthermore, independent claims 1, 2, 8, 9 and 14 are amended herein to recite displaying a suppressed menu item so as to be visible but impossible to select. Accordingly, the user can recognize which functions the user is or is not allowed to operate. Morcos et al., on the other hand, does not display the menu item that is suppressed in a menu.

It is respectfully submitted that neither Ezekiel et al. nor Morcos et al., alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features described above and, thus, amended independent claims 1, 2, 8, 9 and 14 patentably distinguish over the references.

Claim 4 depends from amended claim 1 and inherits its patentable recitations. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 4 also patentably distinguishes over the references.

CONCLUSION

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. Further, all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

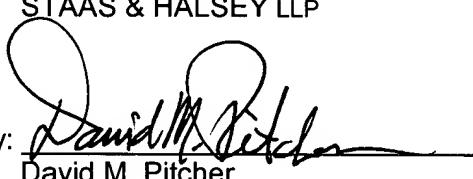
If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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By: 
David M. Pitcher
Registration No. 25,908

1201 New York Ave, N.W., Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501